

## Items of Interest.

—In India there are eight white men to one white woman.

—The United States imports \$50,000,000 of farm products annually.

—A. T. Steward, of London, a millionaire, left his entire estate to a woman who was not his wife.

—In the near future work is to begin on the American University in Washington City. The first building is to cost \$150,000.

—According to the report of the director, just issued, the coinage at the U. S. Mints last year was, gold, \$43,900,000; silver, \$3,900,000.

—Chief Justice Fuller, of the United States Supreme Court, is confined to his bed by a severe cold. He is under the care of his physician.

—A bronze group of statuary of Washington and Lafayette was unveiled in the city of Paris, last Sunday. It was the gift of Joseph Pulitzer, editor of the New York World.

—It is said the Pueblo Indians of South America are the only tribe that have always resisted the trader's efforts to introduce "fire water" and gambling in their communities.

—There are in the United States 240,000 licensed liquor saloons. If these be formed into a street with saloons on each side, they would make a street 265 miles long, allowing twenty feet to each saloon.

—The greatest number of Theological students is to be found at the universities of Greifswald and Erlangen in Germany. These universities have not fallen into line with the adherents of modern theology.

—A statistician of New York makes the startling announcement that during the twenty-five years last past, foreign noblemen have carried out of this country, with their American brides between \$160,000,000 and \$162,000,000.

—There are as many Christians in India at present as there were in the Roman Empire at the close of the first Christian century. This fact means a great deal. It means that the conversion of India will take place much more rapidly than that of Rome.

—In Odessa district of Russia 500 deaths are reported as having resulted from severe storms which have prevailed in that section recently. The victims in most cases were drowned or frozen to death. Great distress prevailed throughout the storm-swept country.

—There are in the United States and Canada 230 societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals and children, with a membership of a million.

—The gold mining excitement in Colorado and Utah still continues; and experts say that it is richer and more extensive than the fields of South Africa.

—Professor L. L. Dyche, of the Kansas University, who lately returned from the far north with the Peary expedition, says that he has practically decided to go again in search of the north pole.

—The new United States fortifications, which have been in process of construction for several years, at Sandy Hook, are hereafter to be known as Fort Hancock. This is now the most important military post on our coast.

—It has been ordered by the Post Office Department that hereafter no postmaster, post office clerk, letter carrier, railway postal clerk, or other postal employe, shall visit Washington, for the purpose of influencing legislation before Congress.

—The first installment of the Chinese war indemnity, \$40,000,000, has been paid to Japan. This sum was transferred from the account of China to that of Japan on the books of the bank of England in the presence of representatives of both countries.

—It is tated that the Christian natives of the South Sea Islands prepare their food on Saturday. No fire is lighted, neither flesh nor food is cooked, not a tree is climbed nor a canoe seen on the water, nor a journey by land undertaken on God's holy day.

### NEAR UNTO HIM.

The Psalmist speaks of the children of Israel as "a people near unto him"—that is, God. The expression is a charming one. There is a tenderness in it which is engaging. One is naturally led to ask, "Is it possible that a people so imperfect, so vacillating, so prone to unbelief, as they were, should be near unto God in his purposes, his desires, his sympathies, his affections?" Yes, it is possible. Imperfect, sinful, variable though they were, yet they were his people. He loved them notwithstanding their fault. He yearned over them, though they often wandered from him. They were the only people who had any sort of love for him, the only people who had any faith in him, the only people who worshipped him. And if they were near unto him, are not all of his people to-day very near unto him also? They are made near by the flood of Christ.

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—It is said that no Kansas Governor has ever signed a death warrant. Those who are sentenced to death are permitted to serve in the penitentiary for life, and are not hanged as the law contemplates. There are at present about seventy-five convicts in the Kansas penitentiary under sentence of death.